



Regents Recap

SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

REGENTS TO DRIVE COORDINATED RESPONSE TO PENDING BUDGET CRISIS

Board of Regents

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Demetrius Sumner
Student

BATON ROUGE, La – The Board of Regents today affirmed their commitment to both advocating for the importance of higher education and providing a statewide budget plan to address a possible \$432 million reduction in state funding for next year. The Division of Administration has instructed higher education to prepare for a 32% reduction for FY 2011-12. Since 2008, higher education funding has been cut by \$280 million.

“We owe it to our students to maximize the greatest amount of access to higher education possible, yet at the same time we owe it to the taxpayers to do it efficiently,” said Regents Vice-Chairman Bob Levy. “So we will be looking to each region to reduce duplication, maximize access and try to recognize quality.”

Regents Vice-Chairman Bob Levy noted that while the systems and campuses are preparing budget scenarios, the quality of postsecondary education services cannot be sustained at current levels if planning is undertaken in a vacuum with each campus and system responding individually to the request. Levy, and other board members, agree that the budget cuts being contemplated require a coordinated response that no single campus or system can make on its own.

“We have to look at making plans as far out as possible to give our faculty and our staff lead time. If we are talking about \$432 million, or anything close to that, a lot of bad things will happen for our students and for our state,” Levy emphasized. “To that end, we must rally around some shared goals.”

Student member Demetrius Sumner noted that students truly fear the impact of the anticipated budget reductions. He reported to the board that he hears from many who feel like higher education is not a state priority, and he asked that Regents take an aggressive role as advocates to save higher ed.

“No matter where you take a cut it will hurt students,” said Sumner. “If you cut faculty, it hurts students, if you cut services it hurts students, if you cut program offerings and we can no longer take the classes we need to graduate, it hurts students. The students would like to see a solution.”

Regent Roland Toups vocally supported a unified, thoughtful approach in planning for the budget reductions and encouraged everyone to move quickly.

“Let’s get with it, let’s have guidelines, let’s approach this thing in an organized attack across all system lines, being as selfless as we possibly can in making this budget,” said Toups. “It’s never fun to make cuts whether it’s in my business or anyone else’s. That’s a tough thing to do and there’s a lot of subjectivity to it, but we have to do it in a logical way because a \$432 million cut will be awful for higher education. We don’t want it. The governor doesn’t want it. But when you look at having to get that kind of budget done with discipline, it has to be examined right now.”

UPCOMING REGENTS MEETINGS:

October 27-28

November
No Meeting Scheduled

December 1-2

Academic & Student Affairs Action

The Board of Regents approved the reinstatement of the moratorium for all new academic/research programs and units at Louisiana's public colleges and universities, effective immediately (September 23, 2010). The moratorium applies to all existing and anticipated proposals for new programs and units and will remain in effect until it is lifted by Board action.

The Board of Regents approved the **TERMINATION** of the following:

- Southeastern Louisiana University-A.A. Criminal Justice
- Delgado Community College-A.S. in General Science
- Northwest Louisiana Technical College-A.A.S. Business Office Administration, A.A.S. Drafting and Design Technology

The Board of Regents approved the following Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degrees:

- Nicholls State University-M.A.T. in Elementary Education & SPEC ED M/MOD Grades 1-5, M.A.T. in Middle School Education & SPEC ED M/MOD Grades 4-8 (English, Math, Science & Social Studies), M.A.T. in Secondary Education & SPEC ED M/MOD Grades 6-12 (English, Math, Science & Social Studies)

The Board of Regents approved the following Post-Masters Academic Certificate (P.M.C.)

- Louisiana State University at Shreveport-School Turnaround Specialist

The Board of Regents approved the following Post-Baccalaureate Academic Certificates: (P.B.C)

- **McNeese State University (Certification Only Alternate Program)**

Early Childhood Grades PK-3

Elementary Education (Grades 1-5)

Middle School Education (Grades 4-8)

Secondary Education (Grades 6-12)

Multiple Levels (Grades K-12)

- **McNeese State University (Add-On Certification)**

Mild/Moderate Special Education (Grades 1-5)

Mild/Moderate Special Education (Grades 6-12)

Counselor (Grades K-12)

School Librarian

- **Nicholls State University (Add-On Certification)**

Early Interventionist (Birth-5)

- **Southeastern Louisiana University (Add-On Certification)**

Gifted Education

Early Childhood Education (Grades PK-3)

Reading Specialist

The Board of Regents approved staff recommendations for Routine Academic Requests.



Todd Barre' has been hired as the Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration. Barre' currently serves as the Associate Vice President for Budget, Finance and Facilities for the University of Louisiana System and has more than 20 years of experience in higher education budgeting, finance and administration. He earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Louisiana State University before working with both the LSU campus and the LSU System Office.

Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents approved an extension to continue negotiations with systems and campuses on final GRAD Act agreements until October 31, 2010. Tuition collected by campuses as a result of the GRAD Act will continue being held in escrow until final agreements are approved by Regents.

The Board of Regents selected Greenwood/Asher and Associates as the search firm tasked with finding a permanent Commissioner of Higher Education. Staff will negotiate the final terms of the contract in the coming days.

The Board of Regents approved the Operating Budgets for the LSU, University of Louisiana, Southern and Louisiana Community and Technical College Systems for FY 10-11 after holding Budget Hearings September 20-21, 2010.

The Board of Regents approved a Budget Adjustment Request for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance.

The Board of Regents approved a Policy for Non-Compliance with BoR Support Fund Evaluation Data Requests.

The Board of Regents approved the nomination of Dr. John Zachary from the Louisiana Office of Economic Development as its representative on the BoR Support Fund EPSCoR Subcommittee.

The Board of Regents approved initial licenses for :

- University of Southern California
- Academy of Interactive Entertainment
- Alden's School of Massage, LLC
- New Orleans Culinary Institute

The Board of Regents approved license renewals for:

- Remington College-Lafayette
- Vanderbilt University
- Art Instruction School
- Baton Rouge School of Computers
- Camelot College
- Coastal College-Alexandria
- Crescent City Career Institute
- Crescent City School of Gaming & Bartending
- Healthcare Training Institute
- Julian Certified Nursing Assistant Training School
- Medical Training College
- River Cities School of Dental Assisting, Inc.
- Unitech Training Academy-Lake Charles
- Yoga School, LLC